

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 4, 2002 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 1, 4, 6, 8-10 and 13 have been amended. Applicants have included herewith a document entitled, "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE" to indicate how the claims have been amended. Claim 15 has been added. No new subject matter has been added. Claims 1 and 3-15 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3-14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particular point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. In particular, The Examiner stated that the limitation of "a plurality of mount apparatuses" on line 3 in claims 1 and 10 were the same as or different from the limitation recited on lines 7 and 4, respectively. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 10 to clarify the recitation of the plurality of mount apparatuses, and respectfully request that this rejection now be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-8 and 10-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Henneberger et al. (U.S. Patent 6,116,961). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, but have amended claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 13 to advance this application to allowance. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original subject matter via a continuing application.

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to clarify that the system is for use with jack assemblies including front plug receiving ports and rear electrical card edge contacts. The system of claim 1 includes mount apparatuses including front electrical contacts configured for contacting the rear electrical card edge contacts of the jack assemblies. The system of claim 10 includes mount apparatuses including a front cover having electrical contacts for mating with the rear electrical card edge contacts of the jack assemblies.

Henneberger does not disclose a mount apparatus configured for receipt of a card edge connector or contact. Rather, Henneberger discloses a jack mount 22 configured for receipt of tips of springs or springs extensions 141a'-156a' that project outward from the rear of a jack assembly. Column 7, lines 30-15, column 11, lines 5-10.

Further, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the chassis has a front and a rear. The chassis includes jack assembly receiving areas formed at the front of the chassis. The mount apparatuses are mounted at the rear of the chassis. In contrast, the "jack receiving areas" of Henneberger are formed in the jack mount 22 rather than the chassis 20. Also, the jack mount 22 is mounted at the front of the chassis 20 rather than the rear of the chassis.

Likewise, claim 10 has been amended to clarify that the chassis defines a plurality of slots configured to receive top and bottom edges of the jack assemblies. In contrast, the top and bottom edges of the jack assemblies in Henneberger are received within "slots" formed in the jack mount 22 rather than the chassis.

Henneberger does not disclose a mount apparatus configured for receipt of jack assemblies having electrical card edge contacts, or a chassis having jack assembly receiving areas/slots. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 10, and dependent claims 3-8 and 10-14 are patentable.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 4-7, 9, 14, and 17, but indicated these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In a telephone communication, the Examiner clarified that only claim 9 was objected-to and that the other claims were indicated as allowable in error.

Claim 15 has been added and incorporates the subject matter of base claim 1, intervening claim 8, and the subject matter recited in objected-to claim 9 which the Examiner indicated as allowable. Applicants thank the Examiner for this notification and respectfully submit that claim 15 is in condition for allowance.

SUMMARY

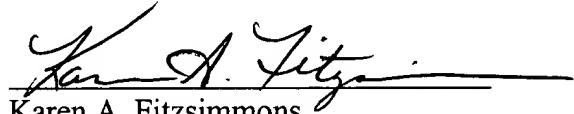
It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 1, 3-15) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Although certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentably distinct. Applicants reserve the right to raise these arguments in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 1, 4, 6, 8-10 and 13 have been amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A system for use with jack assemblies including front plug receiving ports and rear electrical card edge contacts comprising:

a chassis having a front and a rear, the chassis [arranged and configured to retain a plurality of mount apparatuses, the chassis] including a power bus having a plurality of power plugs for providing electrical power, wherein the power bus further includes a power intake for receiving electrical power, the chassis defining a plurality of jack assembly receiving areas formed at the front of the chassis; and

a plurality of mount apparatus mounted [in] at the rear of the chassis, each of the mount apparatus including a power receptacle for receiving electrical power from one of the plurality of power plugs and a circuit board assembly, each of the mount apparatus including front electrical contacts and rear electrical contacts, the front electrical contacts configured for contacting the rear electrical card edge contacts of the jack assemblies.

4. (Twice Amended) The system of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of jack assemblies each having front plug receiving ports and rear electrical card edge contacts that are electrically connected to the mount apparatus.

6. (Twice Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the mount apparatus includes:

a front cover having a plurality of receptacles;
a back cover having a plurality of through holes; and wherein
[a] the circuit board assembly is sandwiched between the front cover and the back cover, the [circuit board assembly] rear electrical contacts of the mount apparatus including a plurality of pins extending through the holes in the back cover.

8. (Twice Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the [mount apparatus includes a] circuit board assembly [having] includes a circuit board and a plurality of electrical terminals, the electrical terminals including the front electrical contacts of the mount apparatus.

9. (Twice Amended) The system of claim 8 wherein the electrical terminals are adapted for insertion into a through hole of the circuit board, the electrical terminal including:

a first section that receives one of the rear electrical card edge contacts of the jack assembly, the first section including first and second spring arms proximate to each other at a contact point and configured to exert a first spring force to retain the electrical contact;

a second section adapted for insertion into the through hole of the circuit board, the second section including first and second pin members proximate to each other and defining first and second slots configured to exert a second spring force to retain the electrical terminal in the through hole of the circuit board, the second spring force being exerted in a direction perpendicular to the first spring force; and

a third section integral with the first and second sections.

10. (Twice Amended) A system for use with jack assemblies including front plug receiving ports and rear electrical card edge contacts comprising:

a chassis defining a plurality of slots configured to receive top and bottom edges of the jack assemblies; [arranged and configured to retain a plurality of mount apparatuses,]

a plurality of mount apparatus mounted in the chassis, each of the mount apparatus including:

a front cover having a plurality of receptacles including electrical contacts for mating with the rear electrical card edge contacts of the jack assemblies;

a back cover having a plurality of through holes; and

a circuit board assembly sandwiched between the front cover and the back cover, the circuit board assembly including a plurality of pins extending through the holes of the

back cover[, the chassis defining a plurality of jack assembly receiving areas], the circuit board assembly providing electrical communication between the electrical contacts of the front cover and the pins extending through the back cover.

13. (Twice Amended) The system of claim 11 further comprising a plurality of jack assemblies each having electrical card edge contacts that are electrically connected to the mount apparatus.

Claim 15 is new.

